

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03

PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 CPR-02 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 SCS-06

CA-01 OC-06 CCO-00 MCT-01 USSS-00 /073 W

-----039298 241359Z /43

O 241338Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5135

S E C R E T SANA 3057

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, YE

SUBJ: SITREP FOLLOWING GHASHMI ASSASSINATION

REF: SANA 3055

1. TOO EARLY TO SPECULATE ON SUCCESSOR TO GHASHMI. ALMOST ALL POLITICIANS IN SANA AND ARMY OFFICERS ARE CLOSETED IN ARMY HEADQUARTERS TRYING TO WORK OUT "CONSTITUTIONAL" SOLUTION. GHASHMI AS PRESIDENT WAS APPOINTED BY PARLIAMENT WHICH COULD COCENE TO APPOINT NEW PRESIDENT AND NEW COMMAND COUNCIL. WITH NO VICE PRESIDENT IN NEW GOVERNMENT, SUCCESSION NOT AUTOMATIC, BUT POSSIBLE INTERIM SUCCESSOR IS ASSISTANT TO PRESIDENT AND PRESIDENT OF PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY, ABD AL KARIM AL-ARASHI.

2. ACCORDING TO TWO SOURCES, NATIONAL SECURITY CHIEF AND DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERIOR, SUSPICION IS FOCUSED ENTIRELY AT THE MOMENT ON SOUTH YEMEN. ACCORDING TO DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERIOR JARMUZI, GHASHMI RECEIVED CALL 23 JUNE FROM PDRY PRESIDENT SALIM RUBAYI ALI TO EFFECT THAT SOUTH YEMENI CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT WOULD ARRIVE IN SANA THIS MORNING WITH HOSTAGES AND REPRESENTATIVE OF SALIM WHO WOULD

HAVE LETTER FOR YAR PRESIDENT.

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PLANE ARRIVED AT ABOUT 7:00 A.M. WITH HOSTAGES. REPRESENTATIVE WENT TO ARMY HEADQUARTERS WHERE HE WAS IMMEDIATELY RECEIVED. ALTHOUGH HE WAS CARRYING BRIEFCASE, HE WAS NOT SEARCHED BEFORE ENTERING PRESIDENT'S OFFICE. BRIEFCASE EXPLODED WHEN PRESIDENT AND MESSENGER BY THEMSELVES. EXPLOSION KILLED MESSENGER AS WELL AS INFLECTING FATAL WOUNDS ON PRESIDENT.

3. ACCORDING TO DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERIOR, MOST OF SANA STILL BLISSFULLY IGNORANT OF EVENT, WHILE THOSE THAT KNOW ARE SHOCKED AND ALARMED. "WHO WILL HELP YEMEN?" ASKED JARMUZI. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS OUTSIDE OF CAPITAL, LIKE MINISTER OF INTERIOR MUHSEN AL-YOUSEFI, ARE BEING RECALLED BUT DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERIOR JARMUZI KNEW OF NO MILITARY MOVEMENTS OR NO OTHER THREAT TO SECURITY ANYWHERE ELSE WITHIN YAR BORDERS. OTHERS EXPECT LOTS OF TRIBESMEN TO SHOW UP IN SANA TO BOLSTER SECURITY, SUPPORT THEIR TRIBAL CANDIDATES.

4. HOWEVER, AT MOMENT, EMBASSY CAN CONFIRM FROM DRIVING TOURS OF SANA AND CONTACTS WITH OTHER OFFICIALS THAT EVERYTHING IS CALM. ONLY MILITARY MOVEMENTS HAVE BEEN TO SURROUND RADIO STATION AND HEADQUARTERS.

5. IN THIS SITUATION, I PROPOSE TO LET YEMENI OFFICIALS COME TO ME WITH INFORMATION. MY VIEW IS THAT IN PRESENT SITUATION OF CONFUSION AND ALARM EXCESSIVE ACTIVITY BY AMERICAN EMBASSY NOT IN OUR INTERESTS OVER SHORT OR LONG TERM. AT SAME TIME, BELIEVE DEPARTMENT SHOULD PREPARE MESSAGE OF SUPPORT, CONDOLENCES WHICH I CAN CARRY TO NEW GOVERNMENT, WHICH IS LIKELY TO BE OF SAME POLITICAL COLORATION AS GHASHMI AND AS MATTER OF FACT DRAWN FROM HIS IMMEDIATE ENTOURAGE.

RANSOM

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